

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action mailed August 20, 2007 and the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of October 9, 2007. The status of the application is as follows:

- Claims 1-7, 9-23, 31-39 are pending. Claims 31-39 are allowed. Claims 1-5, 10-14 and 20-22 have been amended herein. Claim 40 has been added.
- Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jigamian et al. (US Pub. 2003/0137834) in view of Talamo (US 6,244,723), Mah (US 2003/0184997), and Prinsze (US 4,092,580).
- Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jigamian et al. in view of Talamo, Prinsze and Mah, and further in view of Parsons et al. (US 6,296,367).
- Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jigamian et al. in view of Talamo, Mah and Prinsze, and further in view of Rintz et al. (US 6,355,885),

The rejections are discussed below.

The Obviousness Rejections

Independent **claim 1** has been amended herein in accordance with the amendment discussed with the Examiner during the telephone interview of October 9, 2007. It is believed that this amendment places claim 1 (and **claims 2-7 and 9-23** which depend therefrom) in condition for allowance. As such, withdrawal of the rejections to and allowance of the subject claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 10-14, and 20-22 have been amended as a consequence of the amendment to claim 1.

Newly added **claim 40**, which depends from claim 1, further emphasizes various aspects. No new subject matter has been added.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony M. Del Zoppo, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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